

A NEW COMBINATION IN *PANICUM* (POACEAE) SUBGENUS
DICHANTHELIUM

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ABSTRACT

The new combination *Panicum sphaerocarpon* Elliott var. *isophyllum* (Scribner) R. Angelo is proposed.

KEY WORDS: *Panicum*, Poaceae, *Dichantheium*.

In Gould & Clark (1978) the taxon that was generally known as *Panicum polyanthes* J.A. Schultes was treated as a variety under the name *Dichantheium sphaerocarpon* (Elliott) Gould var. *isophyllum* (Scribner) Gould & Clark. According to Zuloaga (1987) and Lelong (1984) there is insufficient evidence at present to warrant elevating subgenus *Dichantheium* to the generic level. If *Panicum polyanthes* is still to be considered as a variety of *Panicum sphaerocarpon*, then a new combination will be required. The new combination *Panicum sphaerocarpon* Elliott var. *polyanthes* (Schultes) A.S. Sherif was proposed (Sherif 1983). However, under Article 60 of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (1988), a name does not have priority outside of its own rank. According to Gould & Clark (1978), "The name *isophyllum* Scribner is the earliest varietal name to be applied to this taxon and must be retained even though the species basionym, *microcarpon*, is illegitimate." In light of this the correct new combination should be:

Panicum sphaerocarpon Elliott var. *isophyllum* (Scribner) R. Angelo, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Panicum microcarpon* Muhlenberg var. *isophyllum* Scribner, Bulletin of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Tennessee. 7:51. Figure 54. 1894. *Dichantheium sphaerocarpon* Elliott var. *isophyllum* (Scribner) Gould & Clark, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 65:1105. 1978. TYPE: UNITED STATES. Tennessee: Blount County, Alleghany Springs, E.E. Gayle, August 1890 (HOLOTYPE: US, Sheet #743578, not seen).

- Panicum multiflorum* Elliott, not Poiret, *Sketch Bot. S. Carolina*. 1:122. 1816. TYPE: UNITED STATES. South Carolina or Georgia: "Hab. in umbrosis. Flor. Mai. June" (HOLOTYPE: CHARL, not seen, photo in GH).
- Panicum microcarpon* Muhlenberg, not Muhlenberg ex Elliott, *Descr. Gram.* 111. 1817. TYPE: UNITED STATES. "40, c Jul. 12. e Cherokee." (HOLOTYPE: PH, not seen).
- Panicum polyanthes* J.A. Schultes, *Mantissa* 2:257. 1824. *Dichantheium sphaerocarpon* Elliott var. *polyanthes* (J.A. Schultes) Gould, *Brittonia* 26:60. 1974. *Panicum sphaerocarpon* Elliott var. *polyanthes* (J.A. Schultes) A.S. Sherif, *Sida* 10:191. 1983. *Dichantheium polyanthes* (J.A. Schultes) Mohlenbrock, *Erigenia* 6:26. 1985. TYPE: Based upon *P. multiflorum* Elliott (December 1816), not Poiret (June 1816).
- Panicum firmandum* Steudel, *Syn. Pl. Glumac.* 1:418. 1855. TYPE: UNITED STATES. North Carolina: M.A. Curtis (HOLOTYPE: P, not seen).

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